CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

WHAT IS LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE?

Liberal Arts College is an undergraduate university programme unique in Montreal and across Canada. It combines a contemporary vision of the liberal arts, consisting in a special required Core Curriculum of seven interrelated seminars, which may be combined with departmental majors and honours programmes. The L.A.C. Core Curriculum (42 of the 90 credits required for graduation) ensures familiarity with the major areas of human knowledge and understanding: history, literature and the humanities, the social sciences, art, music, and scientific thought.

The College is housed in a new, four-storey building on Concordia's Sir George Williams campus (2040 Mackay St.). All College courses are given in its seminar rooms, and it is also equipped with an art and music lab, reception centre, student Commons Room, and a reading room which contains multiple copies of all required course readings.

WHAT ARE THE COLLEGE'S GOALS?

Liberal Arts College provides a carefully-crafted university education; one which enables students to assume the responsibility of becoming educated persons. The goal of the multidisciplinary Core Curriculum is to encourage development of a literate, informed, and independent consciousness. Liberal Arts College is, above all, for serious students who think education is about, and for, life. It views itself as an intellectual community stressing the acquisition of knowledge and the development of critical awareness. Indispensable to social and cultural understanding, such knowledge and awareness is viewed as the precondition for any meaningful self-understanding and active engagement in the world.

WHAT ARE THE L.A.C. CORE CURRICULUM COURSES?

LBCL C291. Structure and Dynamics of Western Civilization.

Historical study, through major works, of social-political relations, antiquity to the nineteenth century.

LBCL C292. Modes of Expression and Interpretation.
Analysis of major Western literary and cultural works, antiquity to the nineteenth century.

LBCL C293. Art and Aesthetic Experience.
The nature and development of the visual arts and music, antiquity to the present.

LBCL C391. Contemporary Civilization.
Study, through major works, of society-state relations, nineteenth century through contemporary period.

LBCL C392. The Sciences in Society.
Introduction to the history, philosophy, and social organization of the sciences, and to the science-society-technology relation.

LBCL C393. Contemporary Modes of Expression and Interpretation.
Analysis of fundamentally important literary and cultural works, nineteenth century to contemporary period.

LBCL C490. Integrative Seminar.
The third-year seminar, devoted to an annually changing topic reflecting the College's multi-disciplinary curriculum.

WHO COMES TO LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE?

The College, since its inception in 1977, has attracted fine students within and beyond Montreal: they come from many Montreal CEGEPs, English and French, and from across Canada (and the United States). L.A.C. seeks students who are serious about their intellectual growth, curious, and committed to learning. The College, with its emphasis on small seminar classes, fine teaching, and close advising, is attractive to students who wish to participate in, and are willing to work hard to achieve, their own education.

L.A.C. is also concerned with the future educational plans of its students: faculty Fellows feel that making students aware of graduate and professional-school opportunities are part of their responsibility. L.A.C. graduates have won many university prizes, and gone on to a variety of educational endeavours, from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, the McGill Faculties of Law and Medicine, and graduate programmes in Canadian universities as well as schools like the University of Chicago and Harvard University in the United States. They have won various kinds of post-graduate awards, including Canada Council grants, Quebec FCAC scholarships, and the British Commonwealth award.

DO I TAKE ALL MY COURSES AT L.A.C.?

Most students at Liberal Arts College combine the required Core Curriculum with a major or honours programme in a departmental discipline; some, with permission, major in "Western Society and Culture" (the 42-credit L.A.C. Core). The College has cooperative agreements with many departments enabling 12 L.A.C. credits to be accredited to disciplinary honours programmes, thus permitting honouring students to complete their degrees within the normal three-year, 90-credit degree requirements.

HOW DO I APPLY TO L.A.C.?

Students wishing to apply to L.A.C. should fill out the regular Concordia University Application for Admission, checking off "Liberal Arts College" on the form. Students can facilitate their applications by contracting the College directly, by phone or letter, to arrange the personal interview required of all applicants within the greater Montreal area. Given the large number of applicants, arranging the interview, as early as possible (even, in some cases, before submitting the formal application), is advisable. Admission to the College normally requires a solid CEGEP average, roughly equivalent to the University "B"; in some cases, promising students may be admitted on the basis of evaluations and interview.

IS THERE SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE?

Students applying to L.A.C. are eligible for Concordia Entrance Scholarships ($1000. annually for three years; 85% CEGEP average required), as well as other available awards. Applications for scholarships are available at CEGEPs or by request from the Registrar's Office: **N.B.:** they must be completed by **March 1st** to ensure eligibility. The College also has a number of internal scholarships for students maintaining a high average in its Core courses.

WHAT IS COLLEGE LIFE LIKE?

Extra-curricular activities comprise an important dimension of College life. Involvement in Montreal's cultural resources is encouraged, and group trips outside the city

are organized. Each October the first-year students visit New York City for a five-day "cultural trip". Art-historical study of original objects is done through visits to the Metropolitan, Frick, Modern and Cloisters (medieval) museums; major bookstores are visited, and the group attends an opera at Lincoln Center. At times the third-year "Integrative Seminar" has generated a "European experience" – previous trips have included Vienna, Greece, Israel and Turkey. The College also sponsors a series of annual "Liberal Arts Lecturers", outstanding scholars and public figures who lecture to the larger Montreal community, and give special College seminars, on issues of importance pertinent to our Core Curriculum.

Of course, L.A.C. is a place, as well as a curriculum. Faculty and students meet in the weekly "Coffee Hour" and, in addition to informal get-togethers, there are annual events like the reception for new students and the Graduates' Dinner. All students are members of the Liberal Arts Society, which has its own offices and budget, sponsors independent student activities, and elects representatives to College Council, L.A.C.'s decision-making body. Student involvement in all aspects of College activity from **Harmonice Mundi,** our journal, to overseeing the functioning of the L.A.C. library, is a fact of College life.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT L.A.C.?

A more complete description of the College and its Core Curriculum may be found in the Concordia University **Calendar.** Feel free to drop into the College (2040 Mackay St.) or to ask for more information by phone ((514) 848-2565) or by writing to:

Professor Harvey Shulman
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Students interested in applying to Liberal Arts College should fill out and forward the **tear-off sheet** attached to this brochure; you will receive additional information, and forms which can speed up your application and interview process.